

*The Alberta Association for Community Living*

*The Alberta Safeguards Foundation  
and  
Community Rehabilitation and Disability Studies Program, University of Calgary*

Present a one-day workshop on:

**Liberation of Handicapped or Societally Devalued People from  
Bondage and Dependency, with Special Emphasis on Their  
Liberation from the Organized Human Service System**

Presented by **Susan Thomas** of the Training Institute for Human Service  
Planning, Leadership & Change Agency, Syracuse University

**Tuesday, March 13, 2012**

**8:30 am - 5:30 pm**

Registration from 8:00 am – 8:30 am

Kensington Legion (Chinook Room)  
1910 Kensington Rd. N.W.  
Calgary, AB

**Cost \$125.00 (includes lunch and refreshments)**

Today we are witnessing the peculiar phenomenon of an increasing percentage of the population becoming dependent on agency structures. In addition, the agency structures, though growing, are beset by an increasing number of dysfunctions that express themselves very oppressively in the lives of dependent people.

For many people, dependence on an agency structure is even more onerous than dependency on specific individuals, in part, because agencies are increasingly constrained in their capacity to respond to people's needs, and communication between agencies and their recipients is subject to so many objectifications, formalizations and other barriers. This is evident among some of the homeless who would rather die on the streets but independent than accept agency dependency.

Many people even enter what one could call a full-time life-long clientage that encompasses virtually all aspects of their lives. While dependency need not be oppressive, it quite commonly is. One element that many agency recipients find very humiliating is being subjected to groups and social associations with other recipients, or with societally devalued people, that brand them as 'being like' these other people.

This workshop explains the above realities and the varieties of dependencies in which so many impaired or societally disadvantaged people find themselves. The workshop will also examine the concept of liberation and show how this may include ways to get a person to be able to function outside the agency structures.

The workshop will be conducted in lecture style, with extensive use of visual overheads. There will be a break for lunch and breaks at mid-morning and mid-afternoon. There will be opportunities for questions and discussion at several points throughout the day.

**Presenter:**

Susan Thomas is a native of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, and received a bachelor's degree (cum laude, in psychology) in 1973, and a master's degree (in special education) in 1979, both from Syracuse University in Syracuse, New York. She has worked since 1973 at the Training Institute for Human Service Planning, Leadership, and Change Agency at Syracuse University, which was founded by Dr. Wolf Wolfensberger in 1973 and which he directed until his death in early 2011. She has had a great deal of experience in teaching Social Role Valorization (SRV) and its predecessor normalization, in teaching other topics relevant to the welfare of devalued people, and in the evaluation of human service quality. With Wolfensberger, she is the co-author of the PASSING service evaluation tool, and numerous articles. She has also authored numerous articles on her own.

Ms. Thomas' service experience has been primarily in informal, voluntary engagements with people in need and with services to them, in the roles of friend, advocate, and mentor for devalued people.

**Registration:**

Registration Fee: \$125.00 (includes lunch and refreshments)  
Fee reductions are available. Please contact Registrar, Ashley Frame at 403.717.0361 for more information.

Register online at [www.aacl.org](http://www.aacl.org) or complete the following by mail, fax or email at [mail.calgary@aacl.org](mailto:mail.calgary@aacl.org)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Organization (if applicable): \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ Prov: \_\_\_\_\_ PC: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Visa     MC     AMX     Cheque     Cash

Credit card# \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Exp Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Please forward registrations to:

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**The Alberta Safeguards Foundation**